



CAWS-AC Federal Update

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FY19 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

Both the House and Senate E&W bills provide the USACE with the FY19 requested amount for GLMRIS at \$200,000.

The House and the Senate include similar report language directing USACE to:

- Submit the completed Brandon Road feasibility study to Congress by February 2019.
- Provide quarterly updates to Congressional Appropriators on:
 - Progress and status of efforts to prevent the spread of Asian carp;
 - Location and density of carp populations;
 - Use of emergency procedures; and
 - Continue collaboration with USCG, USFWS, Illinois, and the ACRC to identify and evaluate whether navigation protocols could reduce the risk of vessels inadvertently carrying AIS through Brandon Road.
- USACE is directed to implement navigation protocols shown to be effective at reducing risk of entrainment, but without jeopardizing the safety of vessels and crews.
 - Senate bill calls for USACE to implement this within 90 days of passage of the act.

E&W Included in First “Mini-bus” Bill

- On June 8, the House passes a “mini omnibus” bill that includes the FY19 E&W, Military, Construction & Veterans Affairs, and the Legislative Branch appropriations bills (H.R. 5985).
 - Rep. Nolan (D-MN) amendment boosts the Army Corps' Aquatic Nuisance Species Research Program by \$1 million.
- Senate passes their “minibus” on June 25.
- Conferees appointed:
 - Senate – Sens. Shelby (R-AL), Alexander (R-TN), Boozman (R-AR), Daines (R-MT), Lankford (R-OK), Leahy (D-VT), Feinstein (D-CA), Schatz (D-HI), and Murphy (D-CT).
 - House – Reps. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Simpson (R-ID), Carter (R-TX), Calvert (R-CA), Fortenberry (R-NE), Fleischmann (R-TN), Herrera Beutler (R-WA), Taylor (R-VA), Lowey (D-NY), Kaptur (D-OH), Visclosky (D-IN), Ryan (D-OH), and Wasserman Schultz (D-FL).
- First Conference Committee Meeting was scheduled for July 12, but was postponed due to “scheduling conflicts.”
- However, Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) has blamed the postponement on a disagreement over how to fund a veterans health care program.

House WRDA

- House passed the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (H.R. 8) on June 6.
- An amendment offered by Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) that was approved by the House includes the following provisions:
 - Clarifies that operation and maintenance of any project authorized under the Chief's Report for the Brandon Road Study is done at an 80/20 Federal/non-Federal cost share;
 - Requires that the Corps, following construction of any project authorized under the Chief's Report for the Brandon Road Study, to consult with the governor of the state where the project is located and seek Congressional approval prior to implementing any additional technologies at the project; and
 - Adds GLMRIS to the list of feasibility studies in the base WRDA bill the USACE must expedite completion of.
- Additional cosponsors to the Davis amendment include: Reps. Lipinski (D-IL), Mitchell (R-MI); Dingell (D-MI); Lawrence (D-MI); and Kildee (D-MI).

Senate WRDA

- On May 22, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S. 2800).
- S. 2800 includes language that requires the USACE to complete a final feasibility report for Brandon Road by the original deadline of February 2019 (Section 2306).
- The timing of when WRDA might be considered on the Senate floor remains unknown.
- However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has announced that he is canceling the Senate's August recess to focus on Appropriations bills and President Trump's judicial nominations. It is possible that WRDA could make its way onto the Senate's agenda during this time period.